

Natasha Barry
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Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of the following bill titled:
An Act Concerning Support For Animals That Are Neglected Or Treated Cruelly

This bill also called "Desmond's Law" speaks to a concern very dear to my heart. I believe our society is becoming more aware that in order to protect animals from cruelty laws need to be passed to provide animals with a stronger level of protection and a message needs to be sent that animal cruelty is taken seriously. We have a moral obligation as a society to prevent cruelty to animals. Cases can take years where the animal is held as evidence in a shelter. With such short life spans and usually having undergone some possible cruelty this just compounds the stress on the animal. Often cases result in sentences that are not truly reflective of severity of their crime and may not be a deterrent of future cruelty.

The case of Desmond is a prime example. You may already be aware that in Desmond's case he was being taken care of at an animal shelter and adopted by his previous owner who was not honest about his previous neglect/ownership of his dog. Shortly after Desmond was killed by his owner and his body dumped in a trash bag on a dead end road. What is most disturbing about this case is that the dog could have been adopted to a family making his death completely preventable and unnecessary. This owner did not see any jail time for what I consider an extreme case of cruelty. This is a clear example of our laws not being a strong enough deterrent of animal cruelty and evidence that animal cruelty cases may likely involve repeat offenders.

The purpose of this bill is to permit the use of animal advocates in certain legal proceedings relating to neglected or cruelly treated animals. As a shelter volunteer, I can tell you there are wonderful people who care very deeply for these animals, but feel helpless watching these cases unfold without having any way to help. If this bill passed we could have a way to show society that we are taking animal cruelty cases seriously and are most concerned about the welfare of the animal during and after the process of these cases.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I appreciate your consideration of passing this bill.

Sincerely,
Natasha Barry